

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 903

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

1861L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to grants for technology education programs, with an emergency clause.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 620.2650, to read as follows:

**620.2650. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

- (1) "Accelerated technology education program", a program conducted apart from the regular course of study for a certification or degree administered by any institution in this state or sponsored and funded by any qualified organization in this state that focuses on the development of computer programming skills that may be completed in under a year. An accelerated technology education program shall be offered free of charge to all eligible participants and at a rate not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars to any other person;
- (2) "Committee", the committee for entrepreneurs established under this section;
- (3) "Department", the department of economic development;
- (4) "Director", the director of the department of economic development;
- (5) "Eligible participant", low- and moderate-income persons as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 5302(a)(20);
- (6) "Institution", any college, university, business, trade, or other technical school in this state;
- (7) "Qualified organization", any business incubator or investment fund specializing in the development of new businesses.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

18           **2. There is hereby established in the department of economic development the**  
19 **"Committee for Entrepreneurs", which shall be appointed by the director of the**  
20 **department and consist of nine members as follows:**

21           **(1) Two members of the house of representatives, one from the majority party and**  
22 **one from the minority party, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;**

23           **(2) Two members of the senate, one from the majority party and one from the**  
24 **minority party, appointed by the president pro tempore;**

25           **(3) One member with experience managing a small business incubator program,**  
26 **appointed by the director;**

27           **(4) One member with experience managing a venture capital fund, appointed by**  
28 **the director;**

29           **(5) Two members with experience conducting technology education, appointed by**  
30 **the director; and**

31           **(6) One member with experience as a successful entrepreneur, appointed by the**  
32 **director.**

33           **3. A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the committee. The**  
34 **four members of the general assembly shall be appointed for a term of five years. The**  
35 **members appointed under subdivisions (3), (4), and (6) of subsection 2 of this section by**  
36 **the director shall serve an initial term of one year, and thereafter members shall serve a**  
37 **term of three years. The members appointed under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this**  
38 **section shall serve for a term of three years. Any vacancy on the committee shall be filled**  
39 **in the same manner as the original appointment. Members shall serve without**  
40 **compensation, but may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses from**  
41 **moneys appropriated to the department for that purpose. The department shall provide**  
42 **technical, actuarial, and administrative support services as required by the committee.**

43           **4. The committee shall:**

44           **(1) Meet on at least four occasions annually, including at least four before the end**  
45 **of December of the first year the committee is established. Meetings may be held by**  
46 **telephone or video conference at the discretion of the committee;**

47           **(2) Determine the criteria necessary for an adequate curriculum for an accelerated**  
48 **technology education program;**

49           **(3) Approve grant applications to institutions and qualified organizations for the**  
50 **development, expansion, or continuance of an accelerated technology education program;**  
51 **and**

52           **(4) Present an annual report detailing the committee's findings regarding the**  
53 **performance of the grant program authorized under this section, feedback from graduates**

54 of an accelerated technology education program and their employers, areas for  
55 improvement, possible curriculum changes, and graduate placement statistics to the  
56 general assembly on or before the fifteenth of March.

57 **5. Subject to appropriation, the committee shall award up to ten grants of fifteen**  
58 **thousand dollars to institutions or qualified organizations annually.**

59 **6. The provisions of this section shall expire on August 28, 2020.**

Section B. Because a technologically educated workforce is vital to the economic future  
2 of Missouri, this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health,  
3 welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of  
4 the constitution, and this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

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